The HERALD

"Our aim: To fear God, tell the truth and make money."
H. C. PADDOCK, 1852-1935

STUART R. PADDOCK, JR.
President and Publisher
ROBERT Y. PADDOCK
Executive Vice President
DAVID A. ROE
Vice President, General Manager
DANIEL E. BAUMANN
Editor

The Herald is published mornings, Monday through Saturday, by Paddock Publications, a division of The Paddock Corporation, 217 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights, Illinois 60006 312-394-2300

The way we see it

Hold off JFK investigation

This is not the proper time for the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee to reopen the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

We do not question the need for further inquiry. Many Americans still express doubts about the findings of the Warren Commission. They believe a further investigation is warranted.

But to reopen the investigation now would be a mistake. The nation currently is faced with presidential primaries and the national political conventions. A contender for the Democratic presidential nomination is U.S. Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho. Church is also chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

It is all too possible for the new Kennedy investigation to become mired in Church's political campaign. Questions about the progress of such an investigation certainly would arise along the campaign trail. Church might attempt to downplay the questions, but the temptation to answer and gain publicity for his campaign might become too great to ignore.

During the course of the lengthy committee investigation into the Central Intelligence Agency, Church attempted to leave politics outside the committee room door. He even delayed announcing his presidential candidacy until after the committee had completed its work.

It seems a similar situation has occurred with the call for the Kennedy investigation. Church should, at the very least, step aside as committee chairman during the probe. However, the best decision would be to delay the start of the investigation until after the national conventions.

If there is substantial new evidence, as several senators believe, then the probe should be reopened. The only way to settle all of the questions still surrounding the assassination is to have a full and open investigation.

But Church's political activities threaten to diminish the credibility of an investigation at this time.

The committee should wait either until Church steps aside or political fortunes determine the fate of Church's campaign.